

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 46
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Peter C. Doherty,
Ph.D., of St. Jude Children's Research
Hospital on his receipt of the 1996 Nobel
Prize for Medicine.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should
pause to pay tribute to those exemplary medical professionals whose research has paved the
way for healthier citizens of today and healthier children of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Peter Doherty, chair of the immunology department at St. Jude
Children's Research Hospital, is most assuredly one such citizen deserving of special praise
and recognition; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Doherty and Dr. Rolf M. Zinkernagel, professor and director of the
Institute of Experimental Immunology at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, have been
awarded the 1996 Nobel Prize for Medicine for their revolutionary work in advancing the field of
cellular immunology; and

WHEREAS, Drs. Doherty and Zinkernagel's experiments revolutionized the field by
explaining the mechanism of T-cell recognition in cell-mediated immunity, thus enabling a better
understanding of how the human immune system recognizes and differentiates between its own
normal cells and those that are infected and transplanted; and

WHEREAS, the discovery by Drs. Doherty and Zinkernagel that MHC proteins restrict T-
cell recognition of foreign antigens has inaugurated a new era in immunology, an era of
research that has clarified the functions of MHC proteins and their relationship to T-cells; and

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WHEREAS, innumerable insights into autoimmune diseases, graft rejection, organ transplantation and vaccine design emanate from the explanation of the role MHC proteins play in cell-mediated immunity; and

WHEREAS, Drs. Doherty and Zinkernagel performed this revolutionary research from 1973-75 at the Australian National University in Canberra; and

WHEREAS, in September 1995, Drs. Doherty and Zinkernagel received the prestigious Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award for their pioneering work that has given birth to a better understanding of the immune system; the Lasker Award frequently foreshadows the Nobel Prize; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Doherty has been honored with several other awards for his work, including a prize in the Memphis Health Industry Council's Awards for Excellence in Research in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Doherty joined St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in 1988, and presently holds the Michael F. Tamer Endowed Chair for Immunology Biomedical Research; and

WHEREAS, a widely known and popular member of the Memphis scientific community, Dr. Doherty is also a professor of pediatrics and pathology at the University of Tennessee, Memphis; and

WHEREAS, he is now focusing his considerable talents and energies on the analysis of T-cell memory and the ways that T-cells control viruses that can cause tumors; and

WHEREAS, in the words of the Lasker Award, Dr. Doherty's work exemplifies "the pioneering spirit and foresight in encouraging medical progress and increases public awareness of the importance of medical research"; and

WHEREAS, more importantly, Dr. Doherty's revolutionary research has helped to save the lives of many people and improve the health of present and future generations, and this outstanding man should be specially recognized on this momentous occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE
CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Peter C. Doherty, Ph.D. of St. Jude
Children's Research Hospital on his receipt of the 1996 Nobel Prize for Medicine, and extend to
him our best wishes for much continued success as he pursues further research in cellular
immunology.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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